

2. (currently amended) A multi-directional laminate flooring panel for use in constructing a floor, the flooringsaid panel comprising:

D/ a top surface, a bottom surface, a middle substrate, thesaid middle substrate having identical grooves formed therein, and edges extending between the top and bottom surfaces, thesaid edges including identical profiles, the flooring panel further including an outwardly tapering channel associated with each edge and extending substantially parallel to each respective edge, the said channel being formed within the bottom surface, the channel includes ~~and including~~ a top portion and with outwardly tapering walls extending from the top portion toward a bottom of the flooring panel such that the channel becomes wider as it extends from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel to create an opening which is wider at the bottom of the flooring panel than at the top portion of the channel.

3-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A multi-directional laminate flooring panel for use in constructing a floor, the flooringsaid panel comprising:

a top surface, a bottom surface and edges extending between the top and bottom surfaces, and a middle substrate located between the top and bottom surfaces, thesaid substrate having identical grooves formed therein, thesaid edges comprising identical profiles, the flooring panel further including an outwardly tapering channel associated with each edge and extending substantially parallel to each respective edge, thesaid channel being formed within the bottom surface, the channel includes ~~and including~~ a top portion and with outwardly tapering walls

extending from the top portion toward a bottom of the flooring panel such that the channel becomes wider as it extends from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel to create an opening which is wider at the bottom of the flooring panel than at the top portion of the channel, and

wherein the middle substrate of the panel comprises a material selected from the group of materials consisting of medium density fiberboard, high density fiberboard, wood/plastic compositions, woods, ceramics, unfilled plastics, filled plastics, closed-cell rigid foams, and combinations thereof.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The flooring A-panel according to ~~as claimed in claim 26~~, wherein the thickness of the flooringsaid panel ranges from about .240 inches to about .320 inches.

12. (currently amended) The flooring A-panel according to ~~as claimed in claim 26~~, wherein each groove is identical.

13. (currently amended) The flooring A-panel according to ~~as claimed in claim 26~~, wherein each profile extends substantially the entire length of the edgeside.

14. (currently amended) The flooring A-panel according to ~~as claimed in claim 26~~, wherein each groove extends to and intersects with a groove of another side ~~or end~~.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The flooring panel according to ~~of~~ claim 26~~15~~, wherein one channel in the bottom surface of the flooring~~said~~ panel extends substantially the entire length of the corresponding edgeside.

17. (currently amended) The flooring panel according to ~~of~~ claim 26~~15~~, wherein one channel in the bottom surface of the flooring panel extends to and intersects with another channel.

18. (currently amended) The flooring panel according to ~~of~~ claim 26, wherein the flooring~~said~~ panel has a geometry selected from the group of geometries consisting of a square, rectangle, triangle, pentagon, hexagon and octagon.

19-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The flooring ~~A-panel according to as claimed in~~ claim 26, wherein the middle substrate comprises a material selected from the group of materials consisting of medium density fiberboard, high density fiberboard, wood/plastic compositions, woods, ceramics, unfilled plastics, filled plastics, closed-cell rigid foams, and combinations thereof.

22-25 (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A multi-directional laminate flooring panel for use in constructing a floor, ~~the flooring~~^{said} panel having at least first and second ends at least first and second sides, said panel comprising:

a top surface,

a bottom surface,

a middle substrate located between the top and bottom surfaces having grooves formed therein, and

edges extending between the top and bottom surfaces having identical profiles, wherein ~~the~~^{the said} bottom surface is coextensive with ~~the~~^{the said} substrate at the first and second ends and the first and second sides of the flooring panel, and wherein the flooring panel further includes an outwardly tapering channel associated with each edge and extending substantially parallel to each respective edge, ~~the~~^{the said} channel being formed within the bottom surface, the channel includes ~~and including~~ a top portion and with outwardly tapering walls extending from the top portion toward a bottom of the flooring panel such that the channel becomes wider as it extends from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel to create an opening which is wider at the bottom of the flooring panel than at the top portion of the channel.

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (new) The flooring panel according to claim 2, wherein the channel includes a first wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel and a second wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel, and the first wall and the second wall extend in opposite directions relative to a plane extending through a center of the top portion and perpendicular to a plane in which the flooring panel lies.

30. (new) The flooring panel according to claim 2, wherein the channel includes a first wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel and a second wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel, and the first wall defines an obtuse angle relative the bottom of the flooring panel and the second wall defines an obtuse angle relative the bottom of the flooring panel.

31. (new) The flooring panel according to claim 9, wherein the channel includes a first wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel and a second wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel, and the first wall and the second wall extend in opposite directions relative to a plane extending through a center of the top portion and perpendicular to a plane in which the flooring panel lies.

32. (new) The flooring panel according to claim 9, wherein the channel includes a first wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel and a second wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel, and the first wall defines

an obtuse angle relative the bottom of the flooring panel and the second wall defines an obtuse angle relative the bottom of the flooring panel.

33. (new) The flooring panel according to claim 26, wherein the channel includes a first wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel and a second wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel, and the first wall and the second wall extend in opposite directions relative to a plane extending through a center of the top portion and perpendicular to a plane in which the flooring panel lies.

34. (new) The flooring panel according to claim 26, wherein the channel includes a first wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel and a second wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel, and the first wall defines an obtuse angle relative the bottom of the flooring panel and the second wall defines an obtuse angle relative the bottom of the flooring panel.
